

Application No.: 10/735,602

Docket No.: JCLA10516

In The Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for delivering a biological material using a gene gun, comprising:

providing the gene gun comprising a pressurized chamber, a sprayer, a controller valve and a material delivery system;

placing a sample solution free of metal particles into the material delivery system, wherein the sample solution comprises at least the biological material;

triggering the gene gun and providing a gas through the controller valve to the pressurized chamber until the gas establishes a pressure lower than 4 atm;

releasing the sample solution from the material delivery system, so that the sample solution is accelerated by the gas in the pressurized chamber; and

discharging the sample solution out of the sprayer, wherein the sprayer includes a spray nozzle and a spray tube, and the spray nozzle comprises an interior contour, wherein the interior contour of the spray nozzle comprises a diverging part and a converging part and a spray neck positioned between the diverging part and the converging part, wherein the sample solution is released from the material delivery system around the spray neck of the spray nozzle and is released in a direction perpendicular to a direction of the flow of the gas, and the spray tube is a diverging straight tube, so that a discharge speed of the sample solution is supersonic and the biological material is evenly injected into a target.

Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological material is a nucleic acid.

Claim 3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological material is a protein.

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Claim 4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological material is a virion.

Claim 5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological material is a vaccine.

Claim 6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological material is an immunogen for cancer immunotherapy.

Claim 7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sample solution is accelerated to a speed of 200-300 m/s by the gas.

Claim 8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a pressure at the sprayer's outlet is about 1 atmospheric pressure.

Claim 9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the spray nozzle further comprises a spray neck positioned between the diverging part and the converging part, and a range of the interior contour of the converging part includes:~~

$r_t < R_t < 2r_t$, wherein R_t represents a curvature radius of the converging part, r_t is a radius of the spray neck; and

wherein $\Theta < 15$ degrees, wherein Θ is an angle between the diverging part and a center axis of the spray tube.

Claim 10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the gas includes a nitrogen gas or a helium gas.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A method for gene transformation by using a gene gun, comprising:

providing the gene gun comprising a pressurized chamber, a sprayer, a controller valve and a material delivery system;

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placing a sample solution free of metal particles into the material delivery system, wherein the sample solution comprises at least a nucleic acid;

triggering the gene gun and providing a gas through the controller valve to the pressurized chamber to establish a pressure lower than 4 atm, wherein the gas is a nitrogen gas or a helium gas;

releasing the sample solution from the material delivery system after the gas in the pressurized chamber establishes the pressure, so that the sample solution is accelerated by the gas in the pressurized chamber; and

discharging the sample solution out of the sprayer, wherein the sprayer includes a spray nozzle and a spray tube, and the spray nozzle comprises an interior contour, wherein the interior contour of the spray nozzle comprises a diverging part and a converging part and a spray neck positioned between the diverging part and the converging part, wherein the liquid sample solution is released from the material delivery system around the spray neck of the spray nozzle and is released in a direction perpendicular to a direction of the flow of the gas, and the spray tube is a diverging straight tube, so that a discharge speed of the sample solution is supersonic and the biological material is evenly injected into a target.

Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the sample solution is accelerated to a speed of 200-300 m/s by the gas.

Claim 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein a pressure at the sprayer's outlet is about 1 atmospheric pressure.

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Claim 14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~the spray nozzle further comprises a spray neck positioned between the diverging part and the converging part, and a range of the interior contour of the converging part includes:~~

$r_t < R_t < 2r_t$, wherein R_t represents a curvature radius of the converging part, r_t is a radius of the spray neck; and

wherein $\Theta < 15$ degrees, wherein Θ is an angle between the diverging part and a center axis of the spray tube.

Claim 15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is used for gene therapy.